The background of the entire page is a high-contrast, stylized image. It appears to be a crowd of people, with a central figure in the foreground wearing a red beret and a yellow scarf, shouting with their mouth wide open. The colors are muted, with a lot of greys, blues, and reds. The overall style is reminiscent of a political poster or a protest image.

President Chavez

Chavez' Fifth Column

Make the Bosses Pay

Socialise the Climate

Stop ACC Cutbacks

Subvert Bosses' Spies

Japan: US Bases Out

Free Peruvian Miners

Class Struggle 86 Oct-Dec 2009

On October 27, to a nationwide outcry of protest, the Key Government amended the Accident Compensation sensitive claims legislation to severely reduce the entitlements that victims of sexual abuse have to counselling and other rehabilitative supports. According to Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP Foundation, 'In addition the proposed 'clinical pathway' involves many processes that are harmful to victims and leave them without support in their most vulnerable times. This is being done in the name of "best practice" but in fact is in exercise in reducing ACC entitlements. In summary some of the proposed changes are:

1. A claimant must have a psychiatric diagnosis to be covered
 2. A claimant must give consent to ACC seeking information from anyone - including their employer - about any pre or post events which may be grounds to refuse cover, or undergo an additional psychological assessment
 3. After the initial psychological assessment, ACC can take up to 9 months to decide if there is an entitlement and no counselling is available during this time
 4. Standard entitlement will be to 16 counselling sessions
 5. Counselling is considered finished when a psychologist determines that the claimant is able to "manage their own symptoms" or should be referred to Mental Health services.
- Several professional bodies including the Association of Psychotherapists, Associations of Counsellors, Psychological Society, Association of Christian Counsellors, Association of Social Workers and New Zealand Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy Association have expressed opposition to the proposals. These groups are seeking a full consultation process and entitlement process that treats victims of sexual abuse with dignity, compassion and ethical processes.'

The same day Nick Smith responded to the protest of the professional organisations by ordering a review in eight months, but this has itself been criticised by the NZ Association of Counsellors.

This sadistic exercise is one example among many of measures right-wing (and left-centre, too!) government are routinely seeking to pass the costs of the financial crisis their policies have created onto the weakest and most vulnerable sections of society. Another example is the government's intention to force sickness and invalid beneficiaries back into work.

Sex-abuse survivors (and motor-cyclists) aren't the only ACC clients being targeted. According to the *Sunday*

No Cuts to ACC Sexual Abuse Counselling

Cutting ACC is no accident

National Day of Action
Monday October 19th

Picket at 3pm outside the ACC offices
(Corner MacLaggan & Clark Streets, near the Warehouse)
March to the Octagon via the National party offices
Rally in the Octagon from 4.30pm

<http://NoCutsToCounselling.blogspot.com/>

Star-Times

(<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/2975449/Secret-ACC-plan-to-charge-all-victims-100>) the ACC has a hidden agenda to

- Introduce a \$100 excess on every claim.
- Reduce income compensation from 80% to 70% after one year and 60% after two.
- Impose a two-year limit on compensation for soft tissue injuries, such as back pain.
- Introduce wider surveillance powers for ACC investigators to stamp out fraud.
- Legislate to make it easier to get workers back to work.

Act Party leader Rodney Hide has pledged support for change on the condition the government throws open to private sector competition the so-called Work Account, which covers all work-related injuries and is funded by levies paid by companies and self-employed businesses. The same account was opened to competition by the then National government in 1999 but Labour brought it back under state control.

See also

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10604832

Nothing shows more clearly that the government are the servants of the capitalist class than its eagerness to prioritise the privatisation of the only department of ACC offering profitable prospects to the trans-national insurance companies.

As a prelude to these attacks on ACC the government co-opted the corporate media into talking up a crisis. But "ACC isn't losing money. Its **revenues** were \$4.5 billion - \$1.5 billion more than it spent on claims this year..." <http://www.thestandard.org.nz/first-manufacture-a-crisis/>)

The analysis in http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=10561167&pnum=0 shows that the only crisis has been the wider crisis of the global capitalist system, and how it has been the cause of any alleged 'blowout' in ACC, which is generally healthier than the capitalist system itself. Unable to solve the crisis of their choosing, the government has sought to make the ACC (clients and all) its scapegoat. Bash the Banking (not the Benefit Bludgers!

In total the banks, including Westpac, ANZ National and ASB, have been assessed to owe about \$2 billion in unpaid taxes and interest.

Inland Revenue alleged that the BNZ rorted the tax base using transactions that were structured to "contrive tax losses that BNZ could offset against its other New Zealand income", without the bank actually being disadvantaged by those costs

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/banking-finance/2600083/BNZ-loses-654m-tax-case>

Comment: The amount of tax these bs evaded paying amounts to ca \$2500 per year over a four year period

for each beneficiary in the country, i.e about \$50 per week, which could have prevented the child poverty stats from reaching their recent shameful levels. This



while beneficiaries were being condemned as overpaid bludgers.

The ACC road to privatisation must be blocked by organising working class rallies 100 times bigger than the bikies rally on Parliament. Workers must demand that the CTU prepares for a political strike over the summer to plan industrial action against the move towards 'pay as you go' and privatisation of ACC.

Roadblock ACC Privatisation!

Defeat the Search and Surveillance Bill

Below are excerpts from the NZ Council for Civil Liberties submission on the S&S Bill which under protests was required to present to the parliamentary select committee in the miserable 10 minutes its promoters allowed.

Far from promoting people's civil liberties and human rights, the Bill has very few measures to protect those rights, and a large number of measures that can be exploited to infringe those rights, not only of people suspected of committing criminal acts, but also others inadvertently caught up in the activities.

It is the role of parliament to support, promote and protect civil liberties. Civil liberties form the basis for a working democracy. This Bill constitutes a failure of Parliament to undertake its core function, the protection of the rights of the people it serves.

The Bill gives effect to the Law Commission report, including the extension of the law to meet new electronic communication processes.

However the Bill does much more than consider clarity and consistency, or extending to electronic communication the powers in existing law. It provides police with rights to stop and search vehicles without warrant, to require operators of computers to provide access to all files, it compels people to provide evidence, and permits unwarranted surveillance of businesses and home addresses.

The most serious challenge to civil liberties is however that all agencies engaged in enforcement activities will be covered by the same extensive search and surveillance powers as the police and customs. The agencies covered by this include government departments (Department of Labour and Immigration, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Social Welfare/WINZ, Customs), Crown entities (Accident Compensation Commission, Civil Aviation Authority), local authorities (Auckland City Council), or other bodies (NZ Food Standards Authority) that employ or engage enforcement officers. This massive extension of the powers of these agencies has

been undertaken not because of need but in the name of 'consistency'.

In the Law Commission report, and in parliamentary and public discussion on the Bill, there has been much talk of getting the balance right between civil liberties and security. NZCCL submits that in reality this argument is used only when civil liberties are being eroded. Only rarely in New Zealand history has legislation increased people's civil liberties or reduced the coercive powers of the State.

Over the last few years, in the name of the 'war against terrorism' there has been, in New Zealand, as across the industrialised countries, massive increase in the powers of the state to intrude on the rights of people.

This Bill, in the name of creating consistency between government agencies, in fact constitutes another step in a major assault on the traditional rights of New Zealanders, as enshrined in the Bill of Rights Act. It provides a range of law enforcement agencies, and especially the police, with search, seizure and surveillance powers that can be used indiscriminately and with little accountability.

The Bill needs to be seen in the context of a plethora of other acts that have been passed during the last few years in the name of 'the war on terrorism', including the Terrorism Suppression (Bombings and Finances) Act, the Crimes Amendment Act, the Border Security Act, the Telecommunications (Interception Capability) Act, the Police Act, and many others. The effect of these has been to greatly expand the powers of the police, the SIS and the GCSB to use classified information, to use surveillance, to arrest and detain people under suspicion of terrorism. At the same time the rights of those people to silence and to non-self-incrimination, to access to the information about them, and to legal remedies has been reduced. Some of the legislation has been made exempt from the Bill of Rights Act.

It is clear that similar legislation has been used in other Western countries (including USA, Canada and England) to spy on minority communities and protest groups. There is considerable evidence that that also

happens in this country. Recently released information confirms that the SIS has spied on New Zealanders' lawful behaviour and private lives for many decades. We know that different police units have also spied on political activists for many years.

The number of units and their surveillance of activist groups and individuals have expanded as the police gained new resources and powers under the 'anti-terrorism' laws. Police entities such as the Strategic Intelligence Unit, Threat Assessment Unit and Special Investigation Group feed information into a super-spy group known as the Combined Threat Assessment Group that also includes the SIS, Defence force, GSCB, DPMC. There is no effective public accountability for their activities.

Given the blurred boundary line between political activism, criminal offending, threats to security and terrorism, more search and surveillance powers for the police will inevitably feed into this network, and the extension of those powers to other enforcement agencies signals the advent of a society where people can no longer feel themselves safe to express themselves openly.

This Bill, then, is not only a covert and major extension of the powers of surveillance and search to a large number of other government

agencies, but is part of a system that has gradually been introduced that suppresses dissent and minority views.

The Bill calls into question the role of a government in a democracy, and the sort of country we would like to see in the future.

In the news we see on a day-to-day basis the effects of governments that ally with law enforcement agencies to produce ever more sophisticated processes to combat crime. We know that in those countries with the most oppressive regimes crime has become endemic, and the government uses the measures they have introduced to spy on and oppress dissenting voices and minority groups.

In a democracy, it is not the role of the government to 'balance civil liberties and security' but to ensure that civil liberties are maintained, even if it may make law enforcement more difficult. Otherwise the government itself becomes oppressive.



The Law Commission report spends considerable time discussing what constitutes 'reasonable expectation of privacy'. NZCCL considers that this Bill intrudes on the reasonable expectation of privacy as outlined in Section 21 of the Bill of Rights Act : "...to be secure from unreasonable search or seizure, whether of the person, property, or correspondence, or otherwise".

Although it has been sold as a rationalisation of the search, seizure and surveillance powers or a range of existing government agencies (described in up to 50 other pieces of legislation) the Bill in fact increases the power of most of those agencies, to the extent that any of them may use surveillance equipment, seize and copy documents without consent, and require both work and private computer documents to be opened.

The Bill also increases the power of police to conduct car and house searches without warrant, to seize property that may be incidental to a search warrant, and charge people who fail to cooperate.

In effect the Bill removes the right of people not to incriminate themselves, by making it a requirement that the operator of a computer open up files to the police. It makes it very easy for all agencies to go on fishing expeditions, and makes it hard for suspects to appeal, because their rights to view evidence against them are diminished.

It is the view of NZCCL that changes as substantial as these need to be subject to public debate instead of being hidden in a complex bill that is promoted as doing administrative tidying up. The Bill challenges the rights and freedoms that are at the heart of our democracy.

No strong case has been made, either in the Law Commission report or in the subsequent discussion, for the increase in the powers of the State to search cars and houses without warrant, to seize personal property, to flout laws relating to privilege, to use a range of surveillance measures with little accountability, and to charge people who fail to cooperate. The argument for increasing such powers has been made in the context of creating consistency between agencies, not based around clear evidence of need.

The Law Commission report makes various benign statements about the role of the police and other law enforcement agencies: "Law enforcement agencies exist ultimately to protect rather than to control the community" (p.23); "The police and other law enforcement agencies are, after all, meant to be of the people for the people" (p.37). It considers that the

police are not opposed to civil liberties but wish to protect them.

It is the experience of NZCCL over many years that the police have no regard for civil liberties, and indeed have been the main instigators of the erosion of civil liberties within this country. The police push the boundaries of their power to the limit.

It is fatuous to consider that police will use sparingly the powers provided in this Bill, or with regard to the civil liberties of the people who are suspects or caught up in their actions. Yet there is little check in the Bill of the powers of the police. There are no strong reporting requirements for any of the new powers, and indeed for some of them there are no reporting requirements at all. Thus the police are to a large extent able to be unaccountable and act with impunity.

Not only has it the potential to trample on people's rights, but it may also lead to greater confusion than it is intended to resolve, when a range of enforcement agencies determine to use their new coercive powers. Far from promoting people's civil liberties and human rights, the Bill has very few measures to protect those rights, and a large number of measures that can be exploited to infringe those rights, not only of people suspected of committing criminal acts, but also others inadvertently caught up in the activities.

NZCCL considers that enforcement agencies should be given powers of search, seizure and especially surveillance very sparingly and with limits and safeguards to ensure they are only used for the particular purposes of the agency. The agencies must not be given open powers such as proposed in this legislation.

Finally, NZCCL considers that it is the role of parliament to support, promote and protect civil liberties. Civil liberties form the basis for a working democracy. This Bill constitutes a failure of Parliament to undertake its core function, the protection of the rights of the people it serves.



This experience of the NZCCL and others in the nation's history should teach it that the role of parliament is to support civil liberties and defend the rights of the people only insofar as it gives a democratic veneer to its real function of advancing capitalist property rights. Whenever the exercise of collective worker's rights has threatened capitalist property the State has shed its democratic cloak and showed its true autocratic colours: The State of Emergency declared during the 1951 Waterfront dispute is an example of how far it will go.

The capitalists and their vanguard financiers have so discredited themselves in the current financial crisis that there is a real possibility that the masses will rise up and seize power for the people. In many countries it has been happening. To forestall this, the capitalists need exactly such legislation as the Search and Surveillance Bill, and it can be no accident that it is being introduced in this time of crisis. The gang activity against which it is ostensibly aimed is itself a symptom of the times when working people's wages and conditions are so depressed that it is well nigh impossible to make a living legally. But once the

legislation is passed we can expect it to be used against working class militants, just as it was in Germany in the 1930s.

It must not be forgotten that the first act of the Nazis after attaining power as the champions of 'Law and Order' was to extend police powers in the manner of the S&S Bill. No sooner than that was done than they were rounding up the communists. And in Aotearoa the first victims of the Terrorism Suppression Act were peace and environmental activists.

How can the working class defeat this legislation? Not by trusting in the parliamentary Labour Party to fix it. As implied above in the NZCCL submission, it was they who set the ball rolling in this direction by passing with the predecessors of this Bill. **And had Labour won the last election, they would be now pushing the same legislation.** <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/node/23431>

The only way of defeating it is by a general strike, and the only measure workers can take is to organise within democratic fighting unions toward that end.

Aotearoa:

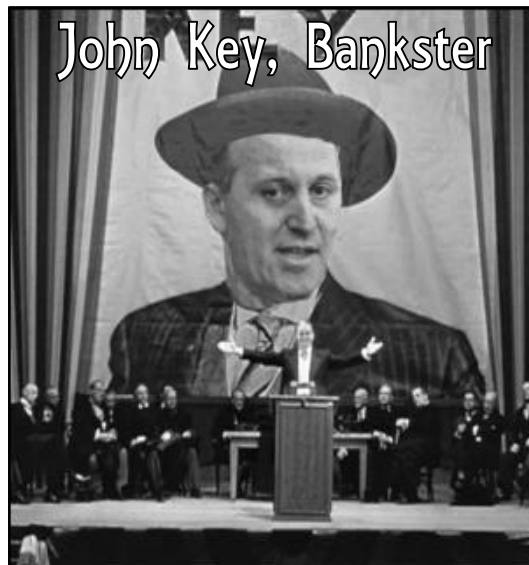
Make the Bosses pay for their Crisis

The financial crisis is world capitalism in its death agony, yet in its convulsions it tightens its grip on the labourers to squeeze profits out of living labour. The crisis is of the capitalists' making but they are shoving it all onto the working class to pay for it, and in doing so they are reproducing the crisis in every worksite and working-class home: It is the working class through our human labour that is productive, and is the source of all value. Capitalism is so blindly destructive that it is strangling and killing the very source of its wealth, namely the working class.

Around the world capitalist governments invariably defend the capitalists and attack workers. Many states have said they will protect workers meagre savings in the banks by guaranteeing funds against banks and finance company failures.

While this guarantees protection for filthy-rich finance capitalists in the form of colossal bailouts, it is the working class from one generation to the next that will pay for it since it is us who produce the wealth. In one

year the magnitude of the bailouts has exceeded all the development aid given in over a century to so-called underdeveloped countries (in reality semi-colonies whose extreme poverty and



'underdevelopment' is an inevitable consequence of their super-exploitation). And the same colossal amount of money would easily suffice to develop the environmentally-friendly technologies so vitally necessary to save the planet from the heart death of man-made climate change, which they repeatedly lied that they couldn't afford. One thing the crisis has exposed as a hollow lie is the claim that states cannot afford to abolish poverty or develop sustainable economies. Another is who dictates to governments what they can and can't do. For *can* and *can't* read *allowed* and *not allowed*. It is the financial/industrial oligarchy of capitalists who do the allowing and forbidding.

By protecting the financial capitalist their obliging servants the governments try to sustain the illusion all too many workers have, that the system is basically sound and can meet everybody's needs if only given one more chance. The government guarantee of the banks is essentially a loan from the working class (through taxes) to keep the finance capitalists afloat - those selfsame finance capitalists who are squeezing profits from the working people: from labourers as wage slaves, or 'self employed' as contract slaves paid on piece rates (per finished job) or in a small businesses where the banker (finance capitalist) is behind it all their as owner or landlord, since the finance capitalist claims an ownership right on their means of their production, irrespective of who produced that! They would have us believe it is money that magically produced it, and not our own labour!

Crisis not yet over

The government is keen for us to believe that the economy is on the road to recovery. Another myth that has been propagated is that Australia has come through the crisis unscathed, and that the Aussie ownership of NZ banks afforded some protection to NZ. But even if business confidence is on the increase, even the capitalists' economists acknowledge that we can't expect unemployment to fall for another year at least. If the Australian capitalists have come through relatively unscathed, a University of Sydney report has proved that the working class has not. Job-sharing projects which have been promoted as way of easing the hardship by sharing it around have all been employer-initiated schemes to casualise the workforce which have brought widespread suffering and the distress that comes from job insecurity.

Defend the Social Wage

As elsewhere the NZ government is strangling the working class to pay for the boss's crisis. Even as it deceptively tells the "public" that frontline Health services will not be cut, it is in reality cutting by demanding that every Health Board live within its budget and therefore forcing restructuring and rounds of cost cutting. Cutting backroom staff just means the frontline have more work to do, and will become increasingly stressed with adverse effects on service quality. The Minister of Health is demanding to know what services can be contracted out at cheaper rates,

meaning lower quality services for the working class. The only way privatised services can deliver profits as well as cover costs and still be cheaper is by paying lower wages. As one perceptive blogger has remarked, government strategy is to so degrade the public health system that people will think that a privatised system must be better. Thus will finance capital be further rewarded for the crisis it has created, and thus (they hope) will workers be further screwed into paying for it.

All these cuts are attacks on the Social Wage, which is paid as a cross-class subsidy to perpetuate class relations by apparently ameliorating and thereby obscuring their existence and their intrinsic antagonism. The Social Wage helps maintain the illusion that we are all equal - because we can all get into the same library: the same swimming pool (in south Auckland anyway), or wait for free in the same queue for a state house, hip replacement, heart bypass, blood test, etc. It was conceded with the utmost reluctance in earlier times by governments alarmed by news of revolutionary upheavals where the working class in some cases succeeded for a while in seizing state control from the capitalists. It was conceded in exchange for promises from reformist Trade Union leaders to curb working-class militancy.



In its determination to offload the costs of its crisis onto workers the present boss's government is unashamedly shedding the most effective cloak of its naked aggression. Having professed while in opposition to deplore the growth of an "underclass" it is now busily intent on creating one. If that is not hypocrisy it is self delusion. Having demonstrated an utterly misplaced faith in a cancerous financial system it is addressing the dire consequences of its class loyalty by even more directly increasing state agencies' powers of search and surveillance, curbing Civil Rights, building more privatised prisons and billing the working class for their construction. And we are supposed to be thankful for their inspirational efforts to economise in that department by borrowing the bright ideas of "civilised" Afghan warlords and crowding prisoners into shipping containers.

For other examples of attacks on the Social Wage, we need only consider the cuts in ACC and the delivering of Auckland 'supercity' over to a clique of business

oriented councillors with agenda of privatising and slashing services.

Crises are characteristic of Capitalism

It is the working class that built this world, and private capitalists who took possession. Marx's book *Capital* described how in their profits would necessarily continue to fall unless they continually intensified their rate of exploitation. Because the bosses have made less profit this year they are setting about attacking the wages and conditions of the workforce. The way they go about attacking the wages and job security of its workforce is through redundancy, i.e. the stealing of jobs. The overall effect of the bosses' attacks is to create more unemployment - a larger reserve of workers, waiting for work, needing to work to survive. Marx called this the reserve army of labour. The "seagulls" that used to be seen waiting for potential work on the ports were the wharves' reserve army. All today's bosses have their 'seagulls' - a reserve army (unemployed, under-employed, casual labourers and more and more contractors) all waiting, at the ready, by their phones, to hear what work - if any - there is for them, on a day-to-day basis. The reserve army has no job security, and is forced into competing for low rate jobs when there is little work about. And they will get called in to the WINZ office if capitalist state decides its time to put more pressure on about taking any job. It is in this way that the capitalist drives down wages to maintain his profit level.

We have described above in general terms the global and national impact of the crisis. Below we look at some of the industrial disputes it has spawned and comment on the working-class fightback.

Telecom Lockout

The bosses were losing money from their lockout; we heard that the bosses have to pay out for security guards and motels for the scab workers (at \$35 an hour). Northland workers have done well to put the pressure on Telecom. Their pickets have been effective enough to create a backlog of maintenance work.

Beware! When employers have used lockouts they usually force workers back on worse pay and under worse conditions - since workers have lost wages and are often behind in rent and debt repayments. We hear

that Telecom is still looking to subcontract and cut half the workforce.

The Engineers union (EPMU) heads are lining up a deal with telecom. So in the Telecom / Chorus / Visionstream situation, the EPMU leadership has given a tame and token response. The leadership was only doing as little to disrupt the employer as they could. While the Telecom workers have pushed hard for the pickets and industrial actions that have occurred, the EPMU leadership will live to sell out another day: They will continue to "represent" the new layer of workers, the contractors.



Get off the NZ Bus

Bus drivers were resolved to work to rule in support of their just wage claim. By locking out the drivers and shutting down the cities buses, the capitalist NZ Bus was insolently prepared to disrupt public transport in defence of their profits.

We say - No profits to those capitalists who stole our buses. All of these buses used to be council owned, before a regional council sell out, and now they are owned by capitalism in its paper creation "Infratil". It was the working class that built them all and it is still regional council transport funding that keeps them running.

GET ON Our Buses- take back the buses without compensation. Workers can do the job without the bosses, and without needing to cream a profit. Why don't we all go down to the bus depot to occupy the depots, lock out the bosses and their police on the job, the bus inspectors! Lock them all out instead.

Run the buses under workers control. We could run the busses around all the routes for free. Let us have a free public transport day! That would increase use of public transport and clear more cars off the roads! For all transport workers to provide free transport, in solidarity with bus drivers.

According to the Green Party - the councils wouldn't even need to build as many new roads if we had more people on the buses (and trains). Fight for Free public transport, under workers control.

We need to defend every job as if it is our own!

Waterfront:

Wharfies are now organised in the Maritime union of New Zealand (MUNZ). Earlier this year the MUNZ

leadership sold 55 jobs out from Bledisloe Wharf. This is simply the latest in a long line of defeats for the wharfies, with the consent, if not actual deals done by the union leadership. Should we list the losses? - Onehunga wharf dispute - scabs brought in from Tauranga, jobs lost and no doubt worse conditions with the eventual contractor. The crew of the Aotea had their jobs sold out, while the ship carried on, new flag, new crew, and with of course lesser pay and poorer conditions.

The recent loss of 55 jobs (Port News, Sept 09) from Bledisloe wharf is another such mistake, the work has not disappeared, and it has just been tied up nearby. The most fortunate of those made redundant, got rehired next door - on the Fergusson Wharf. The bosses (Ports of Auckland) only rehire a few permanents and hire more casuals on lower pay rates and uncertain hours, instead.

The talk from union leaders about unity is rubbish. Real unity must be based on the whole working class - with all labouring people invited to build strong picket lines. Then we can all defend every job, as our own, because it is "our job"; it belongs to the working class. The unity needed is outside the gates of this or that individual employer. Unity can be built with other workers from other sites (but 'union' leaders cannot control them as easily). These are class wide attacks from the bosses and only a working class united fight back can defend our needs.

Miners Strike in Solidarity

Solid Energy contractor Henry Walker Elton (HWE) Mining, attacked 200 workers at Huntly's Rotowaro mine - they "*indefinitely suspended*" them for their low-level industrial action. This aggressive suspension of workers of Rotowaro by HWE (owned by Australian mining company Leighton Mining) was not allowed to go unchecked. Immediately the 100 workers from Huntly East mine went out on strike in solidarity and they were soon followed by, Stockton mine near Westport, and the Spring Creek mine near Greymouth. The miners had shutdown production of coal from all of Solid Energy (a state owned "enterprise").

In the past, the mineworkers fought to gain coverage under the same multi-employer collective agreement (MECA) that means they can support each other in struggle. They have stopped production: all nearly one thousand workers out in strike action and picketing.

Solid Energy has been using contractors to undermine terms and conditions in the industry. Solid Energy's contracting out of mining is a move which essentially part-privatises the mine and side steps responsibility for the working conditions, thus turning it into an issue between the workers and contractors such as HWE.

The real employer though is the NZ government and the contracting out doesn't stop it from being the mine owner. It is good the miners have forced Solid Energy to be a party at negotiations.

But the Union leadership says, "All we want to do is sit down with Solid Energy and its contractors and negotiate a fair industry agreement without any game-playing." They ought to know that nothing is fair under capitalism, especially when capitalism is in crisis and the dominating game in town is that of cutting wages and conditions to restore capitalism's profits at the expense of the working class.

Coal miners have a fine tradition of unity and solidarity to support each other in times of struggle, and have upholding it in this dispute. This is exactly what is needed to shut down production. When production is shut down that proves who creates the wealth - the working class. That puts real pressure on the bosses.

Union leaders are pathetic at leading workers struggles

Union officials lead workers to accept the deals offered by the employers. The employment law chains down unions. The employment laws have always been capitalism's tool to keep organised workers tamed - and they have been effective throughout NZ's history. The law does a de-claw to organised workers, and the teeth are taken out of any fight back. Union officials are threatened by capitalism with seizure of union property and their property, if they lead workers into breaking the Employment Relations Act (ERA). That law was a Labour Governments gift to the working class - yeah right! As a result union officials now lead organised workers away from fighting the system, into playing losing legal games with lawyers.

Our task is to build working class community support around pickets, so that small sites of workers can also shut down production. Then the real pressure could be put onto bosses. The union officials want control of the picket by using their control of the union membership and if other workers come out in support their control



is weakened. Officials discourage working class solidarity - because strikes could become illegal. The capitalist state has that leg iron on the unions, and tamed them. The sort of industrial action would need the unity of the working class and all the unions involved - and breaking the bosses' law, which kept unions on the leash.

Union officials are tied into being mis-leaders of the working class. They are so completely tied down by the law. They have become capitalism's police on the working class. The ERA protects the bosses' profits and any industrial action that would really be effective, which would shut down the bosses' source of profits - well the ERA has made that "illegal". So union leaders daren't do anything effective to fight the bosses. Union organisers are all caught in the tension between what the workers want to fight for (and how), and the limits they are held under (by the capitalist state). Genuine workers democracy in the unions would push the union officials and break through the limits of the ERA leg irons.

Bosses use of lockouts is on the increase

When workers who really want to fight the bosses for living wages and decent working conditions are in constant danger of being made "illegal" all the fine talk about democracy can only be bullshit: the laws we have are bosses' laws made by the bosses' state. Whenever there are industrial disputes it is always the workers who face victimisation by the state forces (police and army). Organised workers need to prepare to go "underground" and to act outside the Employment Relations Act (ERA): In no other way can we effectively fight for our needs and interests, or defend our rights. We need to build fighting funds (off the 'legal' union records). We have to prepare to pay a strike wage: and elect ordinary (rank and file) union members (or supporters) to run this.

The working class needs fighting unions, unions that are fully independent from the capitalist state. Not these tamed ERA unions: Workers must beware of the labour laws and the union officials that are bound by them. Union officials and the whole union set up, is made to work for the capitalist by the ERA law. - They do not really work for the workers that they are supposed to represent and who pay them (through our union dues).



Fight capitalisms sliding scale of redundancies and cuts to wages and conditions!

Share the work by reducing the working week! If we all worked shorter hours with no loss in pay then we could share all the work out and abolish unemployment forever.. What is needed to bring this about is for workers to refuse to work on the fifth day and be prepared to strike on the other four if unpaid for the fifth. Start with a four-day week with no loss of pay, and keep shortening the hours of work until there are jobs for all. These demands are to meet the needs of the whole working class - society needs to provide food, shelter, and work for all.

This crisis of capitalism is proving that capitalist society can't meet the needs of all, and never will. The reality is now charity - food parcels, cops and security doing evictions and repossessions, and bosses cut jobs = redundancies. Capitalism can't meet our needs. We say workers can: what we don't need is the capitalist class. The capitalists do not produce anything. Workers produce what is needed - and workers, organised, could make sure everyone gets what they need.

The first barrier to effectively fighting for this will come from within our own union organisations - from the union officials. Reform the unions, with new rules which include workers election of all union leaders with right to recall - to vote out any misleaders.

Unfortunately the capitalist class won't step aside nicely and put their hands up, saying - "okay, we couldn't meet everyone's needs, now it is time for you workers to organise society and have a go". No the capitalist class gains profits from exploitation of

workers and would lose this under workers control. Socialism is workers organising the whole world economy - not for profits, but for needs. The capitalist class fights with every dirty trick to protect their profits - and they destroy people and property and the environment of the whole world, in their dirty fight. So workers will need to fight to smash the capitalist class and remove capitalism from the whole world economy, and place production under the control of the direct producers - the working class.

Unite the employed and unemployed in the same unions.

- Each union could then set up workers committees that can set the wages and hours of work in the industry so that enough jobs are available.

- Against the current bosses' attacks on jobs, wages and conditions, and on our necessities - Workers need to organise in self-defence.
- Organise local picket line defence committees, with telephone / txt communications set up, so that we can defend each other against attacks from the bosses - at short notice.
- Prepare to defend workers against redundancy, against evictions, lockouts and against having to reapply or contract for our jobs on lower wages or conditions.
- For working class communities to build self-defence pickets to support any workers struggling against the bosses' recession: support the Telecom workers at any pickets.
- If the bosses say production isn't economic anymore then we can take over production.
- Fight redundancy with occupations and workers control!

- Prepare to occupy the site of production if the bosses want to lock workers out - lock the bosses out and let the working class community in to defend your work site.
- **Build revolutionary cells in the unions and across unions in local communities.** We say union workers take control of our unions and take control of our industrial action: make strikes hit the capitalist in their profits - real pickets have to stop the capitalist collecting any profit.

We need to link all of these struggles and to fight the system as whole. We call for a national congress of the ordinary (rank and file) workers to set out a workers programme to solve their recession. We believe workers have the solutions and our party programme is for workers control through socialist revolution. Join us in building a revolutionary party whose one purpose is to end this decaying system.

Chavez calls for International Fifth Column

Chavez' call for a "5th International"

Chavez' call comes at a time of escalating inter-imperialist rivalry involving the US. But the main protagonists are not the long standing rivals, France, Germany, Britain and Japan. These are all either abject lackeys (Britain and Japan) or temporary allies of the US (France and Germany). The new rivals are the emerging imperialist powers Russia and China, both having being defeated after decades of encirclement and imperialist aggression, and forced to restore capitalism, they have nonetheless refused to succumb to US domination and are now asserting themselves as new imperialist rivals.

Moreover, they are emerging even more strongly as rivals to the US at a time when the US economy is facing a deeper double dip recession or depression. While the US and the EU went into recession China in particular kept the world economy from slumping into a deep recession through its ability to continue expanding domestically and internationally. Russia too,



Chavez and Jintao

while much weaker due to its economic collapse after 1991, was able to weather the recession because of its expanding economic power. The only explanation for this expansion while the rest of the capitalist world is contracting is the legacy of these two countries as former degenerated and deformed workers' states.

In this growing inter-imperialist confrontation - economic, political and military - Chavez and ALBA [Bolivian Alliance for the Americas] have sided with a number of states which are part of the China-Russia bloc. In Asia this bloc includes many of the former states that were part of the USSR, now the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] minus Georgia and Ukraine, as well as China's autonomous territories, including Xinjiang Uygur and states like Tibet and Inner Mongolia. Wider afield they include the other members of the SCO [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation] and 'observers' such as India, Iran and Pakistan. In Africa, China and Russia have many Joint Ventures with national governments

such as Zambia, Angola, Sudan, Congo and Zimbabwe that allow them to exchange loans or infrastructure for oil, gas and minerals.

The new international reality then is one where the US is committed to spend more than it spent during the Cold War in invading Iraq, Afghanistan, and now extending this war to Pakistan, and building bases and missile sites strategically placed to isolate and divide Russia and China from their spheres of interest, especially Eurasia, but also in Africa where "AFRICOM" [African command of the US imperialist military machine set up in Ghana in 2008] operates in nearly every country where China has assets and investments, and now also in Latin America where the US sees China increasingly as the banker of ALBA.

War is politics with bombs

This standoff has already led to proxy wars such as that between Georgia and Abkhazia and South Ossetia in the Caucasus. The Afpak war (the Afghan war now spreading into Pakistan) against the Taliban is all about using Afghanistan as a forward base to push into central Asia and the sphere of Russia/China. Each war can easily escalate into proxy or open wars with Russia or China. The most threatening new war would see Israel bomb Iran in a proxy war between the US and China/Russia. China is now Iran's main partner in developing oil and gas. China major oil and gas deals with Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are squeezing US interests out of the picture and producing alarm in the US ruling class.

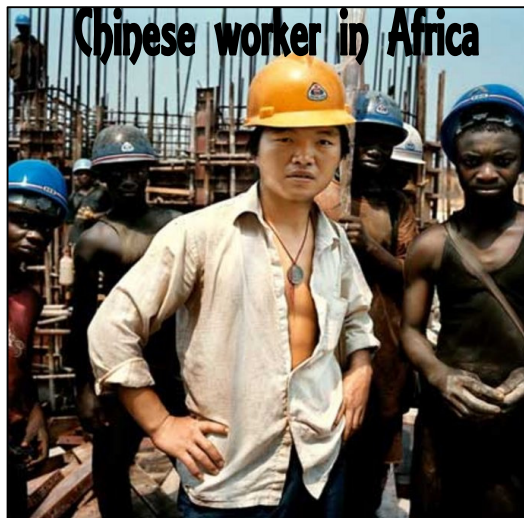
In Sudan the US and China are long term rivals. The oil interests of Exxon and Total have been taken over by Chinese companies. The secessionist south of Sudan is backed by Uganda, a longstanding US ally in central Africa. The wars in the Congo that have taken millions of lives are all over which imperialist power will get its hands on the vital minerals needed in modern computers and cellphones. China is now a new player in this deadly game. In Nigeria China is bidding for the oil assets of Shell. In Zimbabwe, China is now the main partner in the re-development of that almost devastated economy. In each case, the clash of interests between the US bloc of powers and the Russia/China bloc is the main underlying cause of all new political and military conflicts.

Chavez is where on all this?

Chavez has aligned the ALBA states (Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia etc) with the Russia/China bloc. For him the wars are coming closer. Israel is practicing bombing raids on Iran. The US has already taken down Zelaya the President of Honduras in a military coup because he was aligning himself with ALBA. The US is building 7 new bases in Colombia, one right on the border with Venezuela. The US is threatening new coups in Sudan, Paraguay and now Nepal.

But ALBA by itself would be an easy target for US coups. The problem for the US is that ALBA is aligned to Russia/China, is bankrolled by China, and armed by both Russia and China. So Latin America the long time backyard of the US is now likely to blow back all the way up to Mexico.

What's more the Russia/China block expansion has



given ALBA and its allies the economic bankrolling to allow these states to downplay and even ignore US interests. So when Morales (Chavez No 1 partner) nationalised Bolivian oil and gas again in 2006 (it was privatised after 1985), he drove harder bargains with foreign firms. Today the only major players remaining on Morales terms of a 51% state share and a tough tax regime are the Brazilian SOE Petrobras and the Spanish Repsol and French Totalfina. China has taken advantage of the Bolivian regime to become a new strategic partner for the

development of Bolivia's oil and gas. China is increasingly displacing France and Spain as the major rival to US interests in Latin America and the US does not take this lightly.

This is what is behind Chavez's call for a "5th International". It has nothing to do with the previous revolutionary internationals. In fact Chavez is rejecting all of them as too revolutionary. They were all founded with the aim of organising the working class to overthrow capitalism and establish a proletarian dictatorship. Chavez wants nothing of this 20th century revolutionary socialism. He says socialism is necessary, capitalism must go, and the state must be smashed. But it is not the working class that he wants to do this. He is already doing it he says. His military, his nationalisations and his future plans for 21st century socialism on a world scale are sufficient.

If we look at Chavez plans we can see that for him ALBA and its semi-colonial allies can bring about socialism in a strategic alliance with Russia and China.

When he visited China recently Chavez spoke of walking with Hu Jintao on the road to "socialism".

Chavez 5th column international

So while Chavez talks left, praises Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and Castro, he also admires Mao (not to mention Simon Boliva and Jesus Christ). This means that he sees himself as a 'Bonapartist' figure [a national leader named after the French General Napoleon Bonaparte] apparently standing for the national interest and capable of bringing workers and peasants, together with small businesses and loyal capitalists in many countries to add a mass base to the Russia/China bloc and push it to the left as a 'progressive' alternative to the US led bloc of imperialist powers.

Thus Chavez "5th International" is an appeal to the masses in all of these countries (and to the masses in the US bloc powers as well) to unite to do away with capitalism's neo-liberal excesses, and replace it with a progressive form of popular capitalism where the state owns the strategic economic sectors and where popular assemblies plan production for human need instead of inhuman greed. This will be 21st century socialism. In fact is a return to 19th Century socialism which Marx ripped apart in his *Critique of the Gotha Program*.

The trouble is that this is a utopia. The states that Chavez tries to rally into a progressive bloc with Russia and China are all capitalist (apart from Cuba and DPRK -North Korea). What is more Russia and China are newly emerging imperialist powers. There is nothing progressive about them. They are run by capitalist ruling classes just as are the US imperialist bloc powers. They all exploit their workers to hell. When these two big blocs confront each other in new wars on every continent, they will use the masses to fight these wars just as they did in all the previous wars. By tying workers and peasants to a "5th International" behind China and Russia, Chavez and the ALBA regimes will disarm these same workers and peasants in every war that is fought on behalf of the US and Russia/China bloc.

Therefore it is clear that Chavez's "5th international" is actually a "fifth column" in the workers movement. This is a term from the Spanish Revolution in the 1930s when on the Republican side those who acted as the agents of the opposing fascist nationalist enemy were

branded as "fifth columnists" inside the four columns of the Republican army. It means simply that Chavez represents the class enemy, whether he wishes it or not, because he is forming an international in which the bourgeoisie are present in the ranks of the masses. There can be no reconciliation with these antagonistic class interests, they are deadly enemies!



For a new Revolutionary Communist International!

That is why we say that only workers can build a 5th International, one based on the revolutionary programs of the previous internationals before they betrayed the revolution. The 5th would be the successor to the revolutionary First of Marx's time which collapsed in 1879; the Second before it betrayed and sent workers

to fight one another on August 4 1914; the Third which arose out of the Russian Revolution but betrayed by refusing to fight fascism in 1933 allowing Hitler to come to power; and the Fourth which took up the Marxist- Leninist program but collapsed and liquidated itself after the Second World War. Any new workers international will have to be based on this whole revolutionary legacy from Marx to the Founding Program of the Fourth International of Trotsky in 1938.

This program says clearly that only the proletariat can lead the revolution to overthrow capitalism and impose a dictatorship of the proletariat to build a socialist society as the foundation for a future communist society. The working class cannot form any alliances with its class enemy - the bourgeoisie - other than a military alliance to defeat imperialism. But always it is the proletariat that will make the socialist revolution, against the bourgeoisie whose class interests are aligned with imperialism against the workers. Chavez's call for a 5th international is a travesty of this revolutionary heritage and death trap for all workers and peasants around the world.

A real revolutionary communist international is thus based on the lessons of all previous revolutionary internationals to smash the popular front and lead the proletariat to a victorious overthrow of capitalism and the world socialist revolution!

**FOR A FIFTH REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONAL
BASED ON THE FOUNDING PROGRAM OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL OF 1938!**

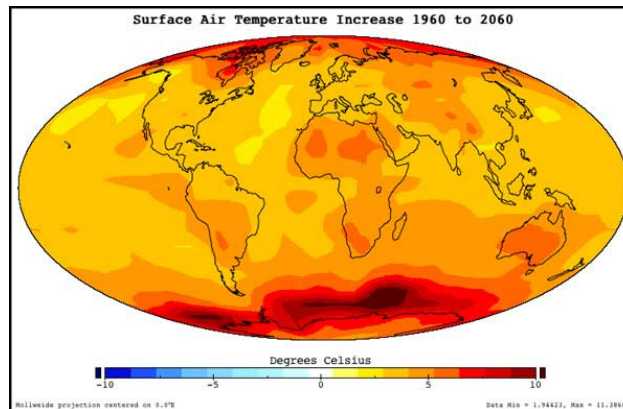
HWR\$ leaflet

A Dire Emergency Only Socialist Revolution Can Prevent Ecosystem Collapse

Climate change poses an immediate threat to the survival of all life on this planet, the scope and urgency of which cannot be underestimated. Many scientists have concluded that we are at or close to the point at which, even if we drastically curtail greenhouse gas emissions immediately, planet Earth will still undergo major climatic change. If we fail to take such measures, the results will be absolutely catastrophic. In as short a time as a few decades, our planet could experience such a swift, massive rise in temperature that human civilization would have little or no chance to survive. (For details, see reverse side.)

Obama has pledged to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A reduction of that magnitude is impossible under capitalism. We cannot rely on national governments or other entities (such as the United Nations) that are controlled by the capitalist class to do that job. No matter how “progressive” capitalist politicians purport to be (see discussion of Evo Morales on reverse), the inherent conflict between the profit motive and the good of society makes it impossible for them to enforce the necessary sacrifices on corporate-controlled industries. But even if a miracle happens, and Obama’s pledge is fulfilled, it will still be much too little, and way too late. The human race needs to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions almost entirely within the next 10 to 30 years if it wants to survive.

The bottom line is that only workers’ control of the means of production can avoid the imminent climate change catastrophe. This means that a successful socialist revolution is needed within a decade or two. If the working class waits to overthrow capitalism for another 30 or 40 years, it is likely to be too late. Even after the socialist revolution, the catastrophe cannot be averted unless we take immediate action. The planned economy will have to impose draconian measures against greenhouse gas emitting industries, and retool all of our energy generation and consumption to run on green, environmentally friendly, sustainable technology. This change will have to be implemented extremely rapidly, and will require the



involvement of practically everyone on the planet, if we are to prevail. The current crisis of capitalism presents an opportunity for us to spread the message to the struggling working class about the gravity of the situation. We must tell the workers, and every middle class and progressive person who supports their struggle, that time is running out. The working class must combine its struggle against capitalist exploitation, and against the current economic crisis, with environmental consciousness. It must fight for workers’ control of industry in order to implement dire emergency measures to transform the current, outmoded technology of industrial production to green and sustainable technology.

Ultimately, this urgently necessary transformation can only be accomplished if the working class and its allies get rid of capitalism via the socialist revolution. Every living soul that cares about our planet and the fate of humanity please be aware: The game of trying to “reform” capitalism must come to an abrupt end. The stakes are no longer socialism or barbarism. They are socialism, or else the end of life on this planet as we know it.

The Methane Time Bomb Is Already Ticking!

As a result of the global warming that has already occurred, the ice that covers the Arctic Ocean is disappearing very fast. Many scientists predict that in the relatively near future, it will be entirely gone in the summer. Even now, an ever-increasing portion of the ice melts to open water each summer, making it darken and thus absorb more solar heat. This causes a positive feedback loop of increased warming.

The rise in the surface temperature of the Arctic means that the bottom of the Arctic Ocean is also warming rapidly, to the point where it is now only a few degrees below freezing in the summer. This situation threatens to compound the problem of global warming by quickening its pace exponentially. The reason is that the seabed beneath the Arctic Ocean

contains a time bomb of unimaginable proportions: a huge amount of frozen methane, a greenhouse gas many times more powerful than carbon dioxide. If the ocean temperature rises above freezing, a massive amount of this methane could be released into the atmosphere, causing global warming to increase drastically in a matter of years or decades. A similar phenomenon is now believed to have caused the Permian Extinction, or "Great Dying", which wiped out almost all life on earth 250 million years ago. (For details and links to source material, see <http://open.salon.com/content.php?cid=65747>.)

We are now threatened with the very real possibility that catastrophic climate change, leading to mass extinction, could happen again. Worse, it could happen so fast that it would be impossible to develop and implement any technological solution that would allow us to preserve the human race from a reversion to barbarism, or even extinction.

The Limitations of "Progressive" Politics

In December 2008, the United Nations held a conference on climate change in Poznan, Poland. In a speech given in connection with the conference, Bolivian President Evo Morales - widely viewed on the Left as a leading progressive figure - correctly proclaimed that "Competition and the thirst for profit without limits of the capitalist system are destroying the planet," and that "As long as we do not change the capitalist system ..., the measures that we adopt will be palliatives that will [be] limited and precarious in character." (Morales's speech can be found online at <http://links.org.au/node/769>.)

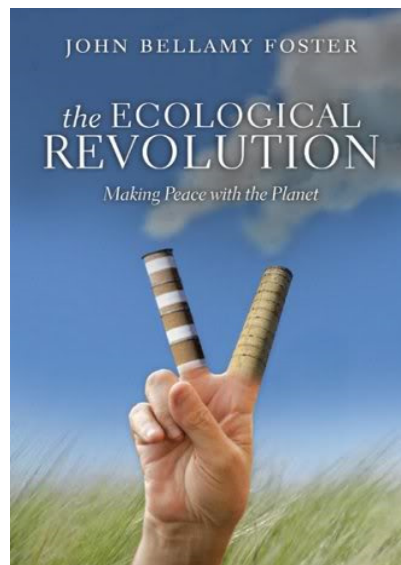
Unfortunately, Morales failed to follow this thought to its logical conclusion - i.e., that in order to save the planet, we must do away with capitalism. His solution? He proposes that we "Debate the structural causes of climate change." "Debate"? While the ecosystem collapses around us? What is needed now is not debate, but action.

Neither Morales nor any other politician or public figure, no matter how "progressive" or even anti-capitalist they purport to be, can offer a realistic solution to the threat of catastrophic climate change unless they are also willing to build a revolutionary movement with the power to overthrow capitalism. As long as the capitalist ruling class holds power, all politicians must capitulate to the limitations inherently imposed by the profit system, which will not permit

them to implement the measures that must be taken to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, transform the means of energy production, and increase the efficiency of energy use. Only a planned economy, democratically run by the workers and their allies in the interests of society as a whole, can forestall the destruction of the ecosystem.

The Need for Transitional Demands

In the current financial crisis of the global capitalist system, the workers will inevitably be the ones who suffer most from the misdeeds and greed of Wall Street. This creates an opening for socialists to argue to a mass audience that we must replace capitalism with a different system, one that puts the needs of all human beings - including the necessity to preserve our planet - ahead of the voraciousness of the privileged few who seek ever increasing wealth and power.



As workers struggle today against the effects of the crisis on their basic rights and standard of living, they need to fight for democratic working class control over the means of production. A big part of this struggle for workers' control should be the demand for the immediate transformation of all industries to produce and utilize "green" non-polluting technology. Scientists and other technical experts should join together into massive, democratically run unions to demand that all available resources - trillions of dollars - be devoted to researching and implementing sustainable, environmentally positive technologies. Ultimately, the struggles and demands of the workers

and their allies should lead to the socialist revolution, since there is no way that capitalism can implement them.

<http://www.humanistsforrevolutionarysocialism.org/>

CWG comments

We are in agreement with the HWRS that climate change is a serious concern and we publish this to contribute to inform and promote debate on the way forward from a socialist perspective. There are debatable aspects of the HWRS statement: how "dire" an "emergency" the planet is in; and how impossible it is for capitalism to continue to survive.

Firstly, is catastrophic ecosystem collapse really approaching? We do not want to get caught up in debate on the science of how much of a "dire

emergency” the planet and all humanity are in. Simply we will acknowledge that some scientists minimize the issue of climate change. There are even a few, who deny climate change, instead saying these are within the normal fluctuations in planetary temperatures across the centuries.



Secondly, capitalism could be capable of maintaining itself in an unstable world climate by passing the repair bill (for the planet) on to the working people. Capitalism remarkably re-stabilised after the barbarism of World War II, with the new imperialist division of the world, cold war, and proxy wars - could it pull off such a “miracle” again. The capitalist conferences of Kyoto and Copenhagen, give indications how the capitalist class is trying to pass the repair bill onto the labouring people, and they continue to subsidise climate exploiters.

In New Zealand, Kyoto prompted a carbon trading system which exempts the agricultural sector (the biggest industry - effectively a subsidy) and instead the bill for carbon emissions will be added to the power bill and petrol costs of ordinary people. Social wages are cut (health, education and welfare services shrink) while taxes are promised for research into agricultural emissions (at Copenhagen). At Copenhagen the rich countries are trying to pass the repair bill (“mitigation commitments”) onto the poorer and developing countries - not surprising that this is resisted and the talks deadlocked.

Demand Now!

- Environmental audits: for industry councils of workers (elected by rank and file union members) and scientists to examine the environmental risks and costs of production in every industry and to introduce industry changes. This is a demand for use in every employment negotiation (the bosses will want representation) and could be included in the work of health & safety officers. (Who should also be elected by rank and file workers and recallable by the rank and file).
- Empower the environmental councils. Demand that these councils to have the power to make changes in suppliers and in production, to the environmentally best possible methods.

- Demand the bosses pay, for training of environmental reps and for regular local and industrial council meetings of elected environmental auditors, for time to study and to consult, and to pay for the scientific experts to be available for workers to consult. We can fight for this in our unions through our employment agreements and force the bosses to pay more realistically for the costs of greenhouse gases and other environmental damage.

These are transitional demands which cannot be met by imperialist multinationals. This means that workers have to advance socialist solutions to take power from the bosses!

Smash capitalism before it drowns us

We need to replace capitalism. Capitalism’s profit driven, based on the exploitation of the planet and of all our labour. The planet can’t fight back, but exploited people can. As the people who put the work in to make this whole world economy run, it is the working class with our hands on the controls of world production. Instead of following the bosses’ instructions, when we really take control and run a planned economy, then we can plan production on a sustainable basis. We can create an international planned economy where the working class introduces the best “green” technologies into producing for our needs.

To transform production to protect the environment, all levels of production need to be reviewed with workers and scientists to find the best “green” methods to produce. Workers running a planned economy could bring more efficiencies than capitalism ever could. Currently 40% of energy costs come from running buildings, this shows how inefficient capitalism really is. We need a construction programme to build new housing - apartment blocks with good insulation, for low energy costs; with common areas and kitchen / restaurant space and children play space - designed for people and to sustain the environment. We will need construction work to rebuild the factories and the public transport system to lower the running costs and get people around more effectively.

Some Marxists have greater hope for the ability of the working class including science and technology to come up with solutions which will solve any climate problem and reverse the damage that capitalism has done in exploiting the planet. We do not want to wait too long to find out. We want to build organisations of workers as soon as, and bring an end to capitalism’s random destruction. For an international planned economy: For Socialism!

Japan

Dear comrades all over the world!

We, the Japanese Zengakuren, are honoured to send you a warmest greeting from Japanese students.

On November 13th, we rose in a protest against US President Obama's visit to Tokyo. Despite the brutal pressure of the police, we resolutely fought to smash the vicious attempt by Japanese and US rulers to consolidate their imperialist alliance through the bilateral summit meeting.

Since late October we have taken successive actions against the ongoing offensive to strengthen the US-Japan military alliance. We will send you a series of reports on these actions. This is the first report.

October 25th, Tokyo

Zengakuren marched on the US embassy and the Prime Minister's Office

With Obama's visit near at hand, Zengakuren carried out a militant demonstration together with workers of the Antiwar Youth Committee. We marched under the slogans: Stop Obama's visit! Smash the bilateral summit! Oppose the nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia! Fight back against the Hatoyama government's offensive to prepare war and to impose poverty! Under the same slogans, students in the Hokkaido, Kansai and Okinawa regions simultaneously held their demonstrations in solidarity.

'Remove missile defences! Remove nuclear bases!'

A militant demonstration carried out despite police repression

'To the US embassy! To the Prime Minister's Office!' We started off arm in arm from a public park in the centre of Tokyo. At the forefront, the red banner of Zengakuren unfurled high.

Massive riot squads were mobilized together with 20 police vehicles to control our demonstration. The Hatoyama government ordered this mobilization with its class hostility against us, the only revolutionary forces fighting to break the stagnation of the class struggle caused by the official leadership who supported this DPJ government. This fact proved the



reactionary nature of the Hatoyama government, which we call the government of 'neo-fascism with a friendly face'.

Full of fight all the more, we closed in on the US embassy. All marchers raised their fists of anger against the Obama administration. While advocating 'a world without nuclear weapons', it is pressing the Japanese

government to pledge full cooperation in constructing a new US Marine base at Henoko, Okinawa. Enough is enough!

In front of the Prime Minister's office, and near the building of the Diet (parliament) as well, we broke down the police oppression and shout the slogans in chorus: Smash the Hatoyama-Obama meeting! No Marine base at Henoko!

Braving the police control, militant workers and students resolutely carried through the fight.

A rally before the demonstration

Zengakuren Chairman Shigeki Okuno delivered a key speech: We must remove the bloodstained US military bases that the imperialist troops are using at this moment to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. Fight to stop Hatoyama and Obama constructing another base at Henoko! Flare up the flame of struggle to remove missile defences, to remove nuclear bases!

'Let us fight', workers and students responded in unison. He continued: Today, the central leadership of the Japanese Communist Party is spreading sweat illusions about Obama. The JCP is reducing its peace movement into one to ask Obama and Hatoyama to take the initiative for 'nuclear arms reduction talks'. By overcoming such a degenerate movement, let us rise in a fight against the US-Japan summit designed to strengthen the new US-Japan military alliance!

A young worker took the platform on behalf of the Antiwar Youth Committee. He revealed how wickedly the Rengo leadership tried to obstruct the September rally of trade unions against the deployment of a US nuclear aircraft carrier in Yokosuka. He reported that militant workers struggled for an upsurge of the rally.

He concluded his speech by saying: 'Let us fight for a radical deconstruction of Rengo!'

A representative of the JRCL made a call on comrades to fight back against the neo-fascistic offensive of the Hatoyama government by overcoming the degenerate leaders. He stressed: In order to break the crisis of the class struggle, we must criticize the criminal nature of the converted Stalinists and fight to strengthen the revolutionary left wing armed with Marx's Marxism, that is, revolutionary Marxism.

A representative of Waseda University students gave the encouraging report that they held a campus demo on October 24th, which made a great impact on the whole students.

The revolutionary significance of the struggle

With this action, we launched a fight against the planned US-Japan summit. The Obama administration is intensifying the pressure on Hatoyama with the aim of binding the Japanese state with the chain of the military alliance. Desperate to rebuild the US dominance over the world as the 'sole superpower', this administration considers it crucial in 'containing' China and Russia to solidify the US-Japan military alliance by linking it to the alliances with South Korea and Australia. Faced with this pressure, the Hatoyama government is intensifying the attempts, together with the Obama administration,

to strengthen the US-Japan military alliance as an offensive and defensive alliance against China and Russia – while showing its disagreements covertly and overtly. This is because the Hatoyama government also has the growing sense of crisis towards China's strengthening of nuclear military capabilities. Notwithstanding this, the central JCP leadership is distorting the opposition movement into a degenerate one to support Obama's initiative for 'a nuclear-free world' or to ask Hatoyama for 'an honest bilateral talk'.

Zengakuren organized the October 25th actions nationwide by overcoming such a degenerate official movement and thus made a springboard for the



struggle against the Obama's visit to Tokyo. We held it in solidarity with workers and students in Okinawa, who were carrying out assiduous activities at their workplaces and campuses day and night to win an upsurge of the November 8th People's Rally against a new US Marine base.

We are advancing our fights against the new US-Japan military alliance in solidarity with the toiling masses who are struggling all over the world against US, Japanese and European imperialist powers imposing 'war and poverty' upon them.

Zengakuren (All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations)

Peru: Denounce the brutal offensive to destroy Peruvian miners' unions by the Garcia government!

In early September, the general secretary of the workers' union of the Casapalca mine was caught by the police without warning. Two other leaders were also put in jail. They are accused of 'the death of a police captain' that happened in October last year. This accusation is, however, totally absurd and unjust.

The Casapalca mineworkers' union has been waging the most militant fight among the Peruvian miners' unions. The arrests of the three leaders are nothing but a brutal political

repression that is designed to destroy their union. Workers of the Casapalca mine have continued their dauntless fight on the basis of their union. Despite the fact that most of them are temporary workers employed by different subcontractors, they have united together by strengthening their union. This is why Garcia's government attacked their union. With this attack as a start, he intends to launch an offensive to eradicate the whole mineworkers' movement. Acutely aware of this intention, the national federation of Peruvian

miners' unions rose in a 48-hour strike this October to fight back against the offensive.

Today, among South American countries, Peru is the most servile to US imperialism next to Colombia. The first thing that Alan Garcia did after his inauguration was the enforcement of the free trade agreement with the United States.

This country is noted for its rich mineral resources including silver, zinc, copper, tin and gold. Most of these minerals are produced, however, under the management of multinationals based in the US, Canada, Australia, Switzerland and other European countries. (Japanese monopolies including Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo have invested their capital.) This is the result of the free economic policy that was taken by Alberto Fujimori during his presidency in 1990s. Moreover, Chinese companies are making inroads into this country today with the Shougang Group in the lead.

The Garcia government, together with the Peruvian bourgeoisie, have pursued their own interests by expanding the development and export of mineral resources through the invitation of US, European monopolies and Chinese companies. This has, of course, enabled these foreign companies to enjoy the limitless plunder of natural resources and, on the other, caused severe poverty to workers and peasants in this country.

Peruvian rulers know well that mineworkers will lead the toiling masses in their struggle against the cruel exploitation and the plunder of resources by foreign companies and eventually expel the president as servant of US imperialism. This is why Peruvian rulers have launched an offensive to destroy the mineworkers' unions.

This attack is, however, stirring up another anger of the masses. And the anger is expanding like tidal waves beyond the Peruvian border.

Unite across borders to fight back!

From Bolivia, an ardent statement of solidarity has been issued by the Federación Sindical de Trabajadores Mineros de Borivia [FSTMB], which has the 60-year old history of vigorous struggle and has been always in the forefront of the class struggle. In its statement, the FSTMB calls on

workers all over the world to fight for the release of the Peruvian miners.

Comrades of the FLTI have also stood up in protest on the initiative of its Peruvian affiliate, Liga Trotskista Internacionalista [LTI]. They call for international actions to press the Peruvian government to unconditionally free the jailed leaders of the union together with militant workers and peasants of Amazonia.

In response to these calls, various organizations are joining the campaign one after another. They include Zanon, Brukman and other industrial workers of Argentina, Himalaya mine workers of Bolivia, the Santiago federation of university students together with education workers of Chile.

Comrades!

In response to the call from the Bolivian mineworkers' union, stand up together with comrades of the FLTI. Let us express our solidarity with Peruvian mineworkers! Immediately free our brothers of the Casapalca mine! Fight back against Garcia's repression of workers and peasants!

Japanese monopoly capitalists are tormenting workers in Japan with massive sackings and lower wages, driving them into poverty and unemployment more ruthlessly than ever. Moreover, in a desperate bid to wriggle out of the economic crisis, Japanese imperialists are bent on intensifying their neo-colonialist inroads into not only Asian countries but also Latin America – in a fret because China is outstripping them. We must never let them do it. We are determined to fight in solidarity with Peruvian mineworkers, and with all working people in Latin America, who are struggling to break the cruel exploitation and expropriation by monopoly capitalist corporations of the US, Japanese and other imperialist countries and by greedy companies of China, which is intensifying its attempts to capture natural resources worldwide with an ambition to become a 'superpower of the 21st century'.

In order to break the offensives to impose poverty upon the toiling masses, let us strengthen our unity with comrades who are fighting all over the world!

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What We Fight For

Overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labor of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

Fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism – a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialism.

Defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

For a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism, to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionise every barrier put in the path to the victorious revolution.

Fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all; that nature can be "conserved"; that socialism and communism are "dead"; we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution; the Third Communist International until 1924, the revolutionary Fourth International up to 1940 before its collapse into centrism. We fight to build a new, Fifth, Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

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